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18th FEBRUARY, 1804.

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Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

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## An Act

*Relating to the recording, registering, and enrolling of Ships or Vessels in the District of Orleans.*

1    **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2    tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,  
3    That any ship or vessel possessed of and sailing under a Spanish or  
4    French register, and belonging, on the twentieth day of December,  
5    one thousand eight hundred and three, and continuing to belong  
6    wholly to any citizen or citizens of the United States, then residing  
7    within the territories ceded to the United States, by the treaty of  
8    the thirtieth of April, one thousand eight hundred and three, be-  
9    tween the United States and the French Republic, or to any per-

10 ~~son or persons being, on the said thirtieth day of April, an inhab-~~  
 11 itant or inhabitants of the said ceded territories, and who continue  
 12 to reside therein, and of which the master is a citizen of the Uni-  
 13 ted States, or an inhabitant as aforesaid, may be registered, enroll-  
 14 ed, and licensed in the manner prescribed by law ; and being so  
 15 registered, enrolled or licensed, shall be denominated and deemed  
 16 a ship or vessel of the United States, and entitled to the benefits  
 17 granted by any law of the United States to ships or vessels there-  
 18 of : *Provided*, That it shall be lawful for the collector to whom  
 19 application shall be made for a certificate of registry, enrollment,  
 20 or license for such ship or vessel by any citizen or inhabitant as  
 21 aforesaid, to make such variations in the forms of the oaths, cer-  
 22 tificates, and licenses, ~~as shall~~ render them applicable to the cases  
 23 herein intended to be provided for : *And provided also*, That every  
 24 such inhabitant applying as aforesaid, shall, prior to his being en-  
 25 titled to receive such certificate of registry, enrollment or license,  
 26 deposit with the collector the register and other papers under which  
 27 such ship or vessel had been navigated ; and also take and sub-  
 28 scribe, before the collector (who is hereby authorised to adminis-  
 29 ter the same) the following oath : I A. B. do swear (or affirm)  
 30 that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the United States  
 31 of America ; and that I do entirely renounce and abjure all alle-  
 32 giance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state or  
 33 sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the king of Spain and  
 34 the French Republic.

1     SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the inhabitants of the  
2     said ceded territory, who were residents thereof on the thirtieth day  
3     of April, one thousand eight hundred and three, who shall take  
4     the oath aforesaid, and who continue to reside therein, or citizens  
5     of the United States residents of said ceded territory, shall be en-  
6     titled to all the benefits and privileges of owning ships or vessels  
7     of the United States, to all intents and purposes, as if they were  
8     citizens of the United States, and residing therein.

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1804—FEBRUARY 18th.

Read the third time, and passed the Senate.

ATTEST,

SAMUEL A. OTIS, *Secretary.*

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